AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. -17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing power consumption by multiple links communicatively interconnected to provide a path between an origin and a destination for a data transmission, wherein each of the multiple links comprise a transmitter communicatively coupled with a receiver via a data transmission medium, the method comprising:

determining ports of the multiple links to transmit the data transmission between the origin to the destination;

determining an activity assignment for the ports of the multiple links based upon forwarding logic, wherein determining the activity assignment comprises determining the data frequency, traffic type, and medium type for the data transmission, the activity assignment being related to transmitting the data transmission from the origin to the destination through the multiple links with ~~a~~ characteristics for ~~the data transmission via a channel of~~ the multiple links to accommodate;

associating the activity with a power mode for the multiple links, ~~wherein~~ the power mode selected~~is related~~ to accommodate the characteristics of the data transmission; and

configuring circuitry of transmitters and receivers of ports of the multiple links on the path to accommodate the characteristics by communicating the power mode to local link controls at each of the transmitters and receivers of the multiple links ~~to configure circuitry associated with the multiple links to process the data transmission~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein determining comprises selecting a medium for at least one of the ~~channels~~multiple links.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein associating comprises associating the transmission frequency with a configuration of the circuitry.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein communicating comprises communicating the power mode to substitute a clock and data recovery loop with a less complex, clock and data recovery loop associated with a lower power consumption.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein communicating comprises communicating the power mode to reduce a gain of a bias circuit.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein communicating comprises communicating the power mode to reduce a frequency of a serialization circuit.

25.-41. (Cancelled)